

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-40 are pending, in which claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-21, 23-29, 31-37, 39, and 40 are currently amended. No new matter is introduced.

The Office Action mailed September 28, 2004 rejected claims 1, 7-9, 15-17, 23-25, 31-33 and 39-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by *Cox et al.* (US 2002/0115431), claims 2-4, 6, 10-12, 14, 18-20, 22, 26-27, 30, 34-36 and 38 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on *Cox et al.* in view of *Shah et al.* (US 6,212,506), and claims 5-6, 13-14, 21-22, 29-30 and 37-38 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on *Cox et al.* in view of *Weinman, Jr.* (US 6,658,455).

The Specification has been amended to correct discovered informalities.

In the interest of advancing prosecution, independent claims 1, 17, 25 and 33 have been amended. Amended independent claim 1 now recites “transmitting information associated with one or more directory listings to a client access device over the packet switched network in response to a query initiated by a customer, wherein the customer selects one or more of the directory listings based on the information.” Claim 9 now amended as “a communication system configured to transmit information associated with one or more directory listings to a client access device over the packet switched network in response to a query initiated by a customer, wherein the customer selects one or more of the directory lists based on the information.” Amended claim 17 recites “means for transmitting information associated with one or more directory listings to a client access device over the packet switched network in response to a query initiated by a customer, wherein the customer selects one or more of the directory listings based on the information.” Also, amended claim 25 recites “a system configured to transmit information associated with one or more directory listings to a client access device over the packet switched network in response to a query initiated by a customer, wherein the customer selects one or more of the directory listings based on the information.” Lastly, claim 33, as amended, recites “transmitting information associated with

one or more directory listings to a client access device over the packet switched network in response to a query initiated by a customer, wherein the customer selects one or more of the directory listings based on the information.”

By contrast, *Cox et al.* discloses a system for providing information assistance services by an operator and billing information for the calls originated by the directory assistance operator on the subscriber’s behalf is logged in a database at the directory assistance center (Abstract and FIG. 2; see also paragraphs [0017], [0018], and [0029]). *Cox et al.* fails to disclose, or otherwise teach, “transmitting information associated with one or more directory listings to a client access device over the packet switched network in response to a query initiated by a customer, wherein the customer selects one or more of the directory listings based on the information.” The cited passages, paragraphs [0045]-[0047] and claim 7, merely describe a billing process whereby “tickets” are utilized to capture billing information for a cellular carrier.

In light of the above discussion, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under §102 be withdrawn, as anticipation under 35 U.S.C. §102 requires that each and every element of the claim be disclosed in a prior art reference. Accordingly, claims 1, 9, 17, 25 and 33, and corresponding dependent claims 7-8, 15-16, 23-24, 31-32 and 39-40 should be indicated as allowable for their dependencies on the amended independent claims.

With respect to the obviousness rejection of claims 2-4, 6, 10-12, 14, 18-20, 22,26-27, 30, 34-36 and 38, Applicants submit that the secondary reference of *Shah et al.*, which is applied for a supposed teaching of a customer database used to determine rates for calls and routing information, does not cure the deficiencies of *Cox et al.* as discussed above.

Similarly with respect to the obviousness rejection of claims 5-6, 13-14, 21-22, 29-30 and 37-38, the additional reference of *Weinman, Jr.* does not fill in the gaps of *Cox et al.* The secondary reference of *Weinman, Jr.* is applied for the supposed teaching of “an enhanced

directory assistance” (Office Action, page 4). The references *Cox et al.* and *Weinman, Jr.*, taken single or in combination, do not teach “transmitting information associated with one or more directory listings to a client access device over the packet switched network in response to a query initiated by a customer, wherein the customer selects one or more of the directory listings based on the information.”

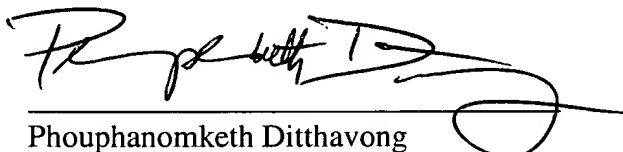
Accordingly, the obviousness rejections are unsustainable and should be withdrawn.

Therefore, the present application, as amended, overcomes the rejections of record and is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If any unresolved issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at (703) 425-8508 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

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12/16/04
Date


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